

CSAT's GPRA STRATEGY

OVERVIEW

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law-103-62) requires all federal departments and agencies to develop strategic plans that specify what they will accomplish over a three to five year period, to annually set performance targets related to their strategic plan, and to annually report the degree to which the targets set in the previous year were met. In addition, agencies are expected to regularly conduct evaluations of their programs and to use the results of those evaluations to explain their success and failures based on the performance monitoring data. While the language of the statute talks about separate Annual Performance Plans and Annual Performance Reports, ASMB/HHS has chosen to incorporate the elements of the annual reports into the annual President's Budget and supporting documents. The following provides an overview of how the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, in conjunction with the Office of the Administrator/SAMHSA, CMHS, and CSAP, are addressing these statutory requirements.

DEFINITIONS

Performance Monitoring	The ongoing measurement and reporting of program accomplishments, particularly progress towards preestablished goals. The monitoring can involve process, output, and outcome measures.
Evaluation	Individual systematic studies conducted periodically or as needed to assess how well a program is working and why particular outcomes have (or have not) been achieved.
Program	For GPRA reporting purposes, a set of activities that have a common purpose and for which targets can (will) be established. ¹
Activity	A group of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts that together are directed toward a common objective.
Project	An individual grant, cooperative agreement, or contract.

¹GPRA gives agencies broad discretion with respect to how its statutory programs are aggregated or disaggregated for GPRA reporting purposes.

CENTER (OR MISSION) GPRA OUTCOMES

The mission of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment is to support and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of substance abuse treatment services throughout the United States. However, it is not the only agency in the Federal government that has substance abuse treatment as part of its mission. The Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Justice all provide considerable support to substance abuse treatment. It shares with these agencies responsibility for achieving the objectives and targets for Goal 3 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Performance Measures of Effectiveness:

Reduce the Health and Social Costs Associated with Drug Use.

Objective 1 is to support and promote effective, efficient, and accessible drug treatment, ensuring the development of a system that is responsive to emerging trends in drug abuse. The individual target areas under this objective include reducing the treatment gap (Goal 3.1.1), demonstrating improved effectiveness for those completing treatment (Goal 3.1.2), reducing waiting time for treatment (Goal 3.1.3), implementing a national treatment outcome monitoring system (Goal 3.1.4), and disseminating treatment information (Goal 3.1.5). Objective 4 is to support and promote the education, training, and credentialing of professionals who work with substance abusers.

CSAT works closely with ONDCP, and other Federal demand reduction agencies to develop annual targets and to implement a data collection/information management strategy that will provide the necessary measures to report on an annual basis on progress toward the targets presented in the ONDCP plan. These performance measures will, at an aggregate level, provide a measure of the overall success of CSAT's activities. While it will be extremely difficult to attribute success or failure in meeting ONDCP's goals to individual programs or agencies, CSAT is committed to working with ONDCP on evaluations designed to attempt to disaggregate the effects. With regard to the data necessary to measure progress, the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (conducted by SAMHSA) is the principal source of data on prevalence of drug abuse and on the treatment gap. Assessing progress on improving effectiveness for those completing treatment requires the implementation of a national treatment outcome monitoring system (Target 3.1.4). ONDCP is funding an effort to develop such a system and it is projected in Performance Measures of Effectiveness to be completed by FY 2002.

Until the system is able to provide data CSAT will rely on more limited data, generated within its own funded grant programs, to provide an indication of the impact that our efforts are having in these particular target areas. It will not be representative of the overall national treatment system, nor of all Federal activities that could affect these outcomes. For example, from its targeted capacity expansion program CSAT can present baseline data on the numbers of individuals treated, percent completing treatment, percent not using illegal drugs, percent employed, and percent engaged in illegal activity (i.e., measures indicated in the ONDCP

targets) in its FY 2002 report with targets for future years. As the efforts to incorporate outcome indicators into the SAPT Block Grant are completed over the next several years, these will be added to the outcomes reported from the targeted capacity expansion program.

In addition to these end outcomes, it is suggested that CSAT consider a routine customer service survey to provide the broadest possible range of customers (and potential customers) with a means of providing feedback on our services and input into future efforts. We would propose an annual survey with a short, structured questionnaire that would also include an unstructured opportunity for respondents to provide additional input if they so choose.

CSATs PROGRAMS FOR GPRA REPORTING PURPOSES

All activities in SAMHSA (and, therefore, CSAT) have been divided into three broad areas or programmatic goals for GPRA reporting purposes:

- Goal 1: Assure services availability;
- Goal 2: Meet unmet and emerging needs;
- Goal 3: Identify and implement best practices

For each GPRA [program] goal, a standard set of output measures has been identified for CSAT activities to provide the basis for establishing targets and reporting performance.

1. ASSURE SERVICES AVAILABILITY

Into this program goal area fall the major services activities of CSAT: the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. In FY 2000 the Block grant application was revised and approved by the Office of Management and Budget to permit the voluntary collection of data from the States. More specifically:

- Number of clients served (unduplicated)
- Increase % of adults receiving services who:
 - (a) were currently employed or engaged in productive activities;
 - (b) had a permanent place to live in the community;
 - (c) had no/reduced involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Percent decrease in
 - (a) Alcohol use;
 - (b) Marijuana use;
 - (c) Cocaine use;
 - (d) Amphetamine use
 - (e) Opiate use

In addition, in the Fall of 1999 a customer satisfaction survey was designed and approved for collection from each state on the level of satisfaction with Technical Assistance and Needs Assessment Services provided to the States. More specifically:

- Increase % of States that express satisfaction with TA provided
- Increase % of TA events that result in systems, program or practice improvements

2. MEET UNMET OR EMERGING NEEDS

Into this program goal area fall the major services activities of CSAT: Targeted Capacity Expansion Grants. Simplistically, the following questions need to be answered about these activities within a performance monitoring context:

- Were identified needs met?
- Was service availability improved?
- Are client outcomes good (e.g., better than benchmarks)?

The client outcome assessment strategy mentioned earlier will provide the data necessary for CSAT to address these questions. The strategy, developed and shared by the three Centers, involves requiring each SAMHSA project that involves services to individuals to collect a uniform set of data elements from each individual at admission to services and 6 and 12 months after admission. The outcomes (as appropriate) that will be tracked using this data are:

- Percent of adults receiving services who:
 - a) were currently employed or engaged in productive activities
 - b) had a permanent place to live in the community
 - c) had reduced involvement with the criminal justice system
 - d) had no past month use of illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs
 - e) experienced reduced alcohol or illegal drug related health, behavior, or social consequences, including the misuse of prescription drugs
- Percent of children/adolescents under age 18 receiving services who:
 - a) were attending school
 - b) were residing in a stable living environment
 - c) had no involvement in the juvenile justice system
 - d) had no past month use of alcohol or illegal drugs
 - e) experienced reduced substance abuse related health, behavior, or social consequences.

These data, combined with data taken from the initial grant applications, will enable CSAT to address each of the critical success questions.

3. IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES

This program involves promoting the adoption of best practices and is synonymous currently with Knowledge Application.² Within CSAT, these activities currently include the Product Development and Targeted Dissemination contract (to include TIPS, TAPS, and Substance Abuse in Brief), the Addiction Technology Transfer Centers, the Practice Improvement Collaboratives, and the Conference Grants.

Activities in this program have the purpose of moving best practices, as determined by other federal agencies that conduct research and other knowledge development activities, into routine use in the treatment system. Again simplistically, the immediate success of these activities can be measured by the extent to which they result in the adoption of a best practice.³ In order to provide appropriate GPRA measures in this area, CSAT plans to require that all activities that contribute to this goal to collect information on the numbers and types of services rendered, the receipt of the service by the clients and their satisfaction with the services, and whether the services resulted in the adoption of a best practice related to the service rendered.

EVALUATIONS

²Most, if not all, of the activities conducted under the rubric of technical assistance and infrastructure development are appropriately classified as activities supporting this program goal. Technical assistance activities within GPRA have not been discussed within CSAT. Further, at this time, SAMHSA has a separate program goal for infrastructure development (see Enhance Service System Performance, below).

³Ultimately, the increased use of efficient and effective practices should increase the availability of services and effectiveness of the system in general. However, measures of treatment availability and effectiveness are not currently available. Within existing resources, it would not be feasible to consider developing a system of performance measurement for this purpose.

As defined earlier, evaluation refers to periodic efforts to validate performance monitoring data; to examine, in greater depth, the reasons why particular performance measures are changing (positively or negatively); and to address specific questions posed by program managers about their programs. These types of evaluation are explicitly described, and expected, within the GPRA framework. In fact, on an annual basis, the results of evaluations are to be presented and future evaluations described.

To date, CSAT has not developed any evaluations explicitly within the GPRA framework. The initial requirements will, of necessity, involve examinations of the reliability and validity of the performance measures developed in each of the four program areas. At the same time, it is expected that CSAT managers will begin to ask questions about the meaning of the performance monitoring data as they begin to come in and be analyzed and reported. This will provide the opportunity to design and conduct evaluations that are tied to real management questions and, therefore, of greater potential usefulness to CSAT. CSAT will be developing a GPRA support contract that permits CSAT to respond flexibly to these situations as they arise.

On a rotating basis, program evaluations will be conducted to validate the performance monitoring data and to extend our understanding of the impacts of the activities on the adoption of best practices.

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